

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph in the application with the two following replacement paragraphs:

This patent application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (e) of United States provisional application No. 60/120,859 filed on February 19, 1999 and of United States provisional application No. 60/143,801 filed on July 14, 1999, and ~~the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is a continuation of application No. 09/507,293 filed on February 18, 2000, now United States Patent No. 6,483,112~~ ~~6,690,464~~ issued on February 10, 2004, which are all herein incorporated by reference.

This application also relates to subject matter described in copending application serial no. 09/353,325, filed July 14, 1999 entitled “High-Throughput Infrared Spectrometry,” now United States Patent No. 6,483,112 and herein incorporated by reference.